



**Spring Conference
3rd DEC Meeting
March 18, 2023**

**Committee
Reports**



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)
Department of Virginia
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March 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 DAV Spring Conference Report

FROM: John W. King PDC, Chair, Department Service Commission (DSC)

Subject: Report of the Spring Conference Department Service Commission (DSC)
This report is for the period October 17th, 2022 thru March 6th, 2023.

1. **The Department Service Commission:** The Department Service Commission (DSC) was established on June 20th, 1987, by the Department of Virginia, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Bylaws to “have jurisdiction and control over all service related and rehabilitative activities of the Department, subject to the general supervision of the Department Convention and the Department Executive Committee.” The mission, directed by the Department Bylaws, is accomplished by:
 - Developing, organizing, and perpetuating a Department Service Program to aid and assist worthy veterans, their dependents, and survivors throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - Exercising control and coordination, and general supervision over all service and rehabilitative activities within the Department.
 - Developing rules, regulations, policies, and such other procedural practices necessary to effectively carry out its duties and responsibilities.

2. **DSC Publications:**
 - **Policy and Procedures (P&P):** As directed by the preceding Bylaws task, the DSC Policy and Procedures describes how the DSC provides services to disabled veterans and their families here in Virginia. This document is an excellent “living document,” and will be updated as required, based upon realistic “lessons learned.” The P&P is available on the Department Web Site (www.virginiadav.org), at each Chapter, the Department Headquarters, and the DSC. However, this policy and procedure will be changed for the benefit of the program.

 - **Employee Handbook:** The “Employee Handbook” sets forth the terms and conditions of employment of all DSC employees. The document establishes the official policy for all DSC employees. Employees of the Department of Virginia DAV who have entered into separate contracts are not covered by the terms of the DSC “Employee Handbook.” The “Employee Handbook” is available on the Department Web Site (www.virginiadav.org). This document will also be updated for the betterment of the program.

 - **Note:** All information for the DSC is now found on the Department Website at www.virginiadav.org. All of the Forms can be found here along with most of the information you



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will need about Conferences/Conventions, Meeting Minutes, Archived Reports and much more. Everyone needs to get familiar with this website.

3. **Distinguished Visitors(s)/Attendees:**

- Department Commander: Francis Mitchell.
- National Guest: 4th Jr. Vice Commander Cynthia M. Madison, Deputy National Legislative Director, Shane Liermann.

4. **Commissioners & Chairs of Committees**

Commission Chairman, **John W King, II** (2), (*Term expires Convention 2022*)
Department Service Director (DSD), **NSO Andrew Hlavacek** (60),
Deputy DSD - **VACANT**
Commissioner/Director Projects and Special Programs, **Bob Bent** (48) (*Term expires Convention 2023*)

Commissioner, **Terry Bohlinger** (13) (*Term expires at Convention 2023*)
Commissioner – **Joseph Richard Olivier** (50) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Commissioner – **Tanya Canty** (*Term expires at Convention at 2023*)
Commissioner – **Christopher S. Cheney** (*Term expires at Convention at 2023*)
Commissioner – **Vacant** (*Term expires at Convention at 2021*)
State VAVS Chairman, **Chris Cheney** (60) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Homeless Veterans Committee Chair, **Lisa Gregory** (7) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Employment Committee Chair, **Shawn Ware** (7) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Women’s Committee Chair, **Tyrelle Felder** (50) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Emergency Relief Committee Chair, **Kassandra Benson**(6) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)

Incarcerated Veterans Assistance Committee Chair, **Jeff Ogilvie** (7) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Finance Committee Chair, **David W. Cuff** (60) (*without vote*) (*Term expires at Convention 2024*)
Department Commander, Ex Officio, **Francis Mitchell** (20) (*without vote*)
Department Adjutant, Ex-Officio **Robert “Bob” Cox** (60), (*without vote*)
DSC Secretary, **Debbie Wood**, LVAP Coordinator (*without vote*)

5. **Meeting Goals:**

- Review Specific Goals during the course of the quarter.
- Significant activities during FY 2022/2023.
- Service activities planned for FY 2022/2023.
- Recommendations to improve service to veterans.



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6. **DSC Business Matters:**

NOTE: Kudos

- **Homeless.** During the quarter PDC Lisa Gregory was a great asset to the Service Commission in assisting the newly elected committee chairs understanding procedures of the DSC. This allowed the DSC Chairman to be relieved of stressful issues. She also serviced in a valuable role as Assistant Department Adjutant. Thank you.
- **Employment:** Recognition to Shawn Ware for a wonderful job putting out job information and developing a website specifically pertaining to employment. Although Shawn has gone through some family events causing great suffering and distress, he still continues to perform his voluntary duties and the duties of his Committee. Kudos
- **Women Veterans:** Kudos to Tyrelle for stepping up to chair the WVC. She has asked many questions so that she could familiarize herself with the program of the Women Veterans Committee. Thank you.
- **Emergency Relief:** Lastly, Kass Benson who has displayed her multitasking ability. She continues to multitask... She has improved the program and has worked diligently with other committees to see how her program may interact with the other committees. Great job!

7. **Reminders of DSC Business Matters-Continues:**

S. 2950—The Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act of 2019

H.R. 4993/S. 2692, the Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement Act, would limit the amount veterans who are authorized to receive emergency care from the VA are required to pay to health plans and other third parties. Veterans who regularly use the VA are authorized to receive emergency care at a non-VA facility if they reasonably believe that a delay in seeking care would impose a serious threat to life or health. H.R. 4993/S. 2692 would limit veterans' cost sharing to no more than \$100. DAV Resolution No. 148 calls upon Congress to improve the VA's emergency and urgent care benefits to ensure that veterans are not discouraged from seeking such care by barriers such as high out-of-pocket costs or complex rules.

Please use the prepared letters to urge your elected officials to support the Veterans Emergency Reimbursement Act. If you have not registered or the Commander's Action Network, please do.

Note: The Department of Veterans Affairs relaunched an improved Access to Care website to provide a simplified, user-friendly experience to help veterans and their caregivers make better-informed decisions when scheduling health care appointments. The VA has been required to publish wait times due to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, which mandated the agency offer timelier and more convenient care to veterans. See your VA medical center for the newest updated website.



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- DSC Committee Chairs Concerns: All DSC chairpersons have been informed of the requirements in accordance with the bylaws and DSC guidelines. Most importantly, all DSC chairs, via the by-laws, must check your website page and your email address and submit them to the Social Media Committee (SMC) and the department adjutant.
- H.R. 232, the Real Justice for Our Veterans Act:
This Veteran’s Act would authorize the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide grants to local governments for improving retention rates in veterans’ treatment courts and specialized programs that integrate substance use treatment services with criminal justice proceedings. The bill also would allow veterans to participate in a regular drug court program if no veterans’ treatment court is available. This bill would also require DOJ to report to Congress three years after its enactment on the effectiveness of veterans’ treatment court programs, including an assessment of access to such programs for women and other demographic groups.
- National Commander Joseph Parsetich presents DAV’s legislative priorities before Congress.

On February 28 (EST), DAV National Commander Joseph Parsetich presented DAV’s legislative priorities for the 118th Congress before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees. Commander Parsetich addressed pressing issues impacting our nation’s veterans, to include:

- Correcting inequities in compensation benefits for veterans and survivors
- Implementing the PACT Act and addressing gaps in toxic exposure benefits
- Ensuring equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans
- Providing a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans
- Bolstering mental health resources to ensure continued progress in reducing veteran suicide.
- Expanding the VA’s capacity to deliver timely, high-quality health care to veterans.

- At the 117th Congress, lawmakers ended the year with the passage of several important bills that benefit our nation’s ill and injured veterans.

A list of key legislation and public laws that include provisions relevant to DAV resolutions MAY BE FOUND AT THIS LINK. <https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/Legislative-Victories-for-Veterans-in-2022-Resolutions-and-links-added.pdf>. DAV’s strong grassroots efforts In 2022, provisions from 49 DAV resolutions were included in legislation introduced by lawmakers and over 460,000 emails were sent to Congress through DAV’s Commander’s Action Network.

- By-Law Requirement for Submission: Committee chairs should not have to be reminded to submit their information to the SMC. Calendars should be marked to submit your information on the first day of the month of a conference/convention. Each committee has an email address that needs to be checked regularly. Any emails pertaining to the committee will be sent to the committee email address, not your personal email address so please get in the habit of checking the committee email. All passwords for emails must be given to the department adjutant.



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▪ Volunteer & HSC program:

- a) **Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP):** The LVAP program is a great way for our members to get credit for the volunteer hours they are doing to help our veterans. We need to make sure we are aware of the hours that we are submitting. This year will be Virginia’s 9th time being awarded the National LVAP award. Chapters and Units should be reporting hours monthly using the new LVAP form 60. If you have any questions about how to report your hours, contact Debbie Wood at davlvapva@gmail.com. The following information is provided:

The below information is a report that covers activities of the Department of Virginia and its committees for the period 1 Jul 2022 thru 24 Feb 2023.

- a. Department Service Commission: Fiscal Year (2022/2023) DAV Transportation. The transportation system had been shut down due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. However, as it has reopened the network has accomplished the following:

	Hampton	Richmond	Salem	Washington, DC	Totals
Veterans	181	N/R	N/R	N/R	181
Hours	608	N/R	N/R	N/R	608
Miles	7,320	N/R	N/R	N/R	7,320
Total Drivers	4	0	0	0	4
Drivers Available	4	0	0	0	4

b. LVAP Hours (Fiscal Year July 2022- Feb 2023):

- DAV = 75,106 hours
- DAVA = 29,726 hours
- Mid-Year Total – 104,832 LVAP hours
- Top 5 Chapters: 6 (27,661), 22 (6,958), 13 (6,041), 57 (5,296) and 7 (4,929)
- Top 5 Units: 56 (12,348), 15 (5,469), 50 (4,819), 33 (2,776) and 6 (1,999)
- Virginia won their 9th LVAP award for the 2021-2022 that was awarded in Orlando, Florida during the 2023 DAV National Convention.



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FISCAL YEAR 20xx TO 20xx LVAP AUXILIARY REPORT

3/7/23

UNIT NUMBER	UNIT NAME	2022							2023						YEAR TOTALS		
		JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	SUBTOTAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN			
2	LESTER S. GORDON 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	H. H. MACKENZIE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	NORFOLK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	SUFFOLK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	MURRAY-RHEA PENINSULA	308	402	400	304	347	238	1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,999	Key blue denotes highest month of volunteer hours and chapter with highest volunteer hours.
7	GENERAL WASHINGTON	66	66	109	66	212	269	788	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	788	
10	FAIRFAX-ARLINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11	MOUNTVERNON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	YORK COUNTY VICTORY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY	770	730	808	812	787	801	4,708	761	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,469	
20	VIRGINIA BEACH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22	PORTSMOUTH FEDERAL	207	180	184	281	224	140	1,216	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,328	
23	CARROLL COUNTY	71	84	58	0	157	0	370	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	520	
26	J. ROBERT GRAHAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27	PORTSMOUTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
31	TAZWELL COUNTY	395	437	351	0	0	0	1,183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,183	
33	CHARLOTTESVILLE	519	438	447	535	435	402	2,776	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,776	
34	PATRICK HENRY	11	3	9	32	3	2	60	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	
41	CRADOCK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
47	PETERSBURG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Top Report
48	E. PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Unit 56
50	AL BARTRAW JR.	1,263	1,366	1,395	795	0	0	4,819	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,819	Unit 15
56	WISE	1,668	1,659	1,769	1,716	2,025	1,764	10,601	1,747	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,348	Unit 50
57	JAMES E. PETERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Unit 33
58	GEN. ANTHONY WAYNE	417	381	0	193	168	47	1,206	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,217	Unit 6
60	FRANKLIN COUNTY & SML	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
61	EASTERN SHORE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Average
KEY	Highest volunteer hours	Second	Third	11,000+	10,000+	9,000+	8,000+	7,000+	6,000+	5,000+	4,000+	3,000+	2,000+	1,000+	TOTAL		
	TOTAL DAVA HOURS	5,695	5,746	5,530	4,734	4,358	3,663	29,726	2,784	0	0	0	0	0	32,510		
															32,510		

c. Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC):



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The HSC Coordinators are responsible for keeping track of the transportation vehicles and coordinating with the VA medical centers. The status on the medical Centers is as indicated:

- VA Medical Center Hampton: Mr. Keith Davis and Ms. Mary Wilson oversee the Hampton Roads Area. Currently, the HSC has notified eleven (11) volunteer drivers who are willing and ready to return as volunteer drivers; there are eight (8) vehicles prepared for dispatching will the adequate PPE need for transporting veterans; only one (1) vehicle is in an inoperative status at this time and currently in the maintenance department; Nevertheless, there are always pros and cons in all situations. In this case, the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) formerly VA Veterans Services (VAVS) and VA Medical Center Hampton are the leads in returning volunteer drivers back to the VAMC. The VA Medical Center Hampton, as of to date, has not scheduled verification class for volunteers, nor physicals, PPD or orientations. July is an anticipated start date.

- VA Medical Center Washington D C: *Washington D.C. has a new HSC, replacing Harriette St. John who has dedicated a number of years to this program. The replacement is Jacqueline Jackson. Ms. Jackson has been a volunteer as a driver and understands the program. Due to the pandemic, she has to start from scratch with computers, internet access, background check, etc. Expecting great things from her.*

VA Medical Center Richmond: *Currently, vehicle action is unexpected to occur in several months. However, approval claim permission for DSO has been granted. Fredericksburg is still in need of volunteer drivers. HSC (waiting to hire) Patricia Morgan at McGuire Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia will begin working as soon as matters at the medical center are okayed by the hospital director. This medical center assists veterans in the Frederick area as well as Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell, Charlottesville, and other surrounding areas.*

VA Medical Center Salem: Thus far, not HSC is available. Commissioner Cheney is soliciting for support in this area. DSO Cuff is the claims officer for the Salem – Roanoke area.

8. Commissioner and Committee Reports:

- DSC Department Service Director (DSD), Andrew Dilbeck (60):
- DSC Deputy Department Service Director - VACANT:

Roanoke NSO Office - Personnel

Andrew Dilbeck, National Service Officer,
Assistant Supervisor, Deputy Department Service Director- VACANT
Senior National Service Officer - VACANT



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Lewis Ramsey, National Service Officer
 William S. Bible, National Service Officer
 Morgan Bowles (Under Apprenticeship)

Roanoke NSO Office – Administrative Personnel

Amy King, NSO Secretary
 Shannon Riley, NSO Secretary

Norfolk NSO Office - Personnel

Brenda Lamb	Transition Service Officer (TSO)
Sandra Almond	Transition Service Officer (TSO)

Report for Roanoke NSO Office Statistics March 1, 2022 thru 6 March 2023:

➤ VA Files reviewed	13,237
➤ Emails responded to	
➤ TOTAL EMAILS	4,859
Power of Attorney's Submitted:	
➤ TOTAL POWER OF ATTORNEY'S	750
Interviews:	
Phone Calls	2,079
	537
➤ TOTAL INTERVIEWS	2,616
New Claims:	
➤ New disabilities	16,005
➤ Increased Rating	829
➤ Direct Mail Upload (DMU)	5,700
➤ TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS	22,534
Rating Board Appearances:	
➤ Formal	
➤ In-formal	139
➤ TOTAL RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	139
➤ VAF 9's	



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➤ Appellant Brief's	6
Transition Service Officer Activities (2 TSO's assigned at Norfolk):	
Briefing Presentation Meetings:	
➤ Presentations	
➤ Participants	
➤ Files reviewed	
➤	
<i>Total TSO Office Activities:</i>	54,045

DAV has two (2) Transition Service Officers (TSO)s on Naval Station Norfolk. Only one is currently filled. As you can tell by the numbers above, they stay busy providing the valuable services each transitioning service member deserves. Brenda Lamb provides separation benefit briefings to service members separating from all branches of the military and from the lowest ranking soldier to the highest-ranking Admiral. DOD requires ALL separating servicemembers receive a briefing on their disability benefits from the VA, and there are no better qualified TSO's in the Nation who can do it better than Brenda Lamb and Sandra Almond at Naval Station Norfolk and DAV.

i. Commissioner, Terry Bohlinger (13) Report:

- i. *Financials:* Due to COVID and everything being shut down we have not sold anything in a while but hope to turn that around. Any money made from the sale of patches and pins will go to the DSC.
- ii. *Items currently available:* Large Virginia patches for DAV/DAVA for \$23.00 each. 1) 4-inch iron-on patch for \$5.00 or 3 or more for \$4.00 each; 2) DAV/DAVA pins for \$3.50 each or 3 for \$10.00.
- iii. *Funds*

State VAVS Chairman, Chris S. Cheney (60) Report of Voluntary Services:

This has been another year of encountering issues with volunteer opportunities at the Veterans Affairs Health Centers due to the still ongoing COVID pandemic and the new variants which seem to pop up every other day.

We have not been driving the vans to pick up patients; and have not received any indication from any of the hospitals of an exact timeframe in which this would resume. However, Mr. Johnson from Richmond Medical Center recently told our DAV VAVS representative “he is hoping to start utilizing the DAV vehicles within a month or so” he continued to say, “and of course that is contingent on the availability of drivers.” The Voluntary Service Staff at the various hospitals have been taking care of



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the vans by having the volunteer drivers come in and start them up and ensure they stay in good mechanical order.

I contacted the VAVS Chief at the Salem VA Medical Center, and he stated “From my understanding the DAV is interviewing for HSC Candidates. As soon as someone is hired for that we will be needing drivers. We are reaching out to all of our past drivers to see if they are interested in coming back at this time.” It is hopeful that all prior drivers will return once this is accomplished.

The current VAVS Representatives and their Deputies are as listed below:

- Terry Early, VAVS Representative – Salem
- James Barnette, VAVS Deputy Representative – Salem
- Lee Bricker, VAVS Deputy Representative – Salem

- Tanya Canty, VAVS Representative – Hampton
- Lu Juanda Gray-Parks, VAVS Deputy Representative – Hampton
- Keith Davis, VAVS Deputy Representative – Hampton

- Richard Olivier, VAVS Representative – Richmond
- Roger Overstreet, VAVS Deputy Representative – Richmond

9. **Committee Chairs Report:**

DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE

The following are highlights of the Emergency Relief Committee for the Department of Virginia:

- ER Funds Expended July 2022 to Feb 2022: \$12,100.88, 25 veterans and their families assisted (needs included Hotel Stays for Homeless, Rent Assists, and Utilities)
- Training requests for proper ER application investigation increased thereby producing more timely & vetted assistance; special shout-out to Chapters 3, 34, and 50 in their emergent assistance to close gaps that Tidewater chapters could not.
- Conducted 2 x Zoom Meetings w/DAV Commanders and CSOs to sound the alarm about the rise of requests due to ending of COVID relief programs.
- Announced to the Hampton VAMC & partner VSOs/community partners that DAV is not an open ATM; pushed for training to understand the HUD-VASH program and its impact on DAV's parameters for assistance as a non-profit
- Attended a Continuum of Care Meeting to provide perspective on DAV's role in the financial assistance to local veterans.
- Draft Policy is in work to clarify/standardize the ER Application Process
- Committee members continued to fill the gap in vetting packages with transparency.



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Department ER Funds Expended 20 June 2022 to Feb 2023: \$12,100.88

Kudos to Chapters 3, 34, and 50 in their emergent assistance to close gaps that Tidewater chapters could not provide assistance.

The following are chapters that provided assistance by Chapters (as reported) for this period:

DAV Chapter 6:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$6,399,04
Total Veterans Assisted: 18 Veterans; 16 Dependents.

DAV Chapter 7:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$2,300
Total Veterans Assisted: 6

DAV Chapter 20:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$7, 236.00
Emergency Relief Assistance: \$6191.04

Total Veterans Assisted: 28 (Includes 8 Homeless vets)
Total Rental and Utilities Assistance: 20

DAV Chapter 50:

Total Amount Dispersed: Not reported.
Total Veterans Assisted: 3 (1 was Homeless)

NOTE: All other Virginia chapters not reported will be contacted and offered the chance to provide their numbers for historical purposes. Any assistance after 6 March 2023 can be included in an ADDEMDUM Report after conference completion.

DEPARTMENT HOMELESS COMMITTEE

Since the fall conference, the Committee has continued to utilize local, state and federal resources to assist with temporary housing for Homeless Veterans and working to get them connected to the proper resources to meet their needs. This information may sound repetitive to many, but it is important since some needs of Homeless Veterans can be outside the scope or monetary amounts DAV Chapters can offer.

The Committee involved Chapters by asking them to connect Veterans with 211 or the Homeless Veteran Hotline at 1-877-4AID VET. Many of the pandemic services are starting to go away and we are seeing an increase at a level that is beyond our scope and what the Veteran may be able to maintain and sustain on their own.



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Kudos to those chapters that have assisted outside the Department scope are as indicated: Chapter 6 (\$3,300), Chapter 7 (\$493), Chapter 20 (\$1045), Chapter 13 (\$7403) and Chapter 21 (\$3030), Chapter 28 (\$700) and Chapters 26 and 50 both helped a total of 6 Veterans. Total reported by these Chapters alone was roughly \$17,000 in assistance to 55 Veterans.

It is important to show what our Chapters and the Department are contributing to veterans. The department assisted 19 Veterans with over \$8,700.

It is vital that we use such services as the VA Homeless Transition Team, Local Shelters, Virginia Veteran and Family Support, The United Way, The Red Cross, and many others to our fullest.

There is no doubt that we provide what is needed to help get Homeless Veterans into permanent and safe housing. These are great ideas that we must take strives to accomplish.

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Shaun has done a fantastic job while undergoing adversity and distress. Under his leadership, the Employment Committee remains steadfast in assisting veterans and their families with employment information, resources, and opportunities. They continued to build relationships with the Chapters, Department, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) and employers around the Commonwealth to collectively and effectively provide assistance.

The updating of the LVER directory, a resource of information and a tool for continuity has been a great success in accruing jobs for veterans. It is accomplished by working on employment-related legislative proposals which will be submitted for review and consideration prior to Annual Convention.

Bottom-line, this process strengthens the foundation, content, and effectiveness of the employment program and accomplishes our goals of helping veterans and their families. EXCELLENT WORK!

DEPARTMENT WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE

Successes:

1. Publishing our quarterly newsletter in November and February via collaboration with Social Media Cmte and Line Officers
2. Hosted 2 quarterly WVC Zoom meetings with increased attendees and participation.

Challenges:

1. Wider dissemination of the newsletter
2. Obtaining marketing items for the committee



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Plans:

1. DAV-DVS WVC Wellness Retreat: TBD
2. WVC Day at DAV Conferences/Conventions: PENDING
3. WVC Lapel Pins: PENDING (being re-worked)
4. WVC Ink Pens: TBD

Recommendations:

- Constant Contact accounts for all Committee Chairs
- Quarterly if not monthly DSC meetings for better communication, expectations
- Survey Monkey account for Dept Committee Chairs

DEPARTMENT INCARCERATED VETERANS' ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

During the past quarter, Jeff has conducted research on how we can get back into the local jails and some of the prisons.

November 2022, Met with Deputy Curtis at the Stafford County Worship Watch(Rappahannock Jail), spoke to chaplain and other Veterans to see how DAV can get into and help Veterans locked up in a facility.

December 2022, Correction Town Hall Virtual meeting. Veterans, Chaplains, and Sherriff's as well as Program Managers.

February 2023, Met with Marshall Williams and 2 Interns with Virginia Cares to discuss what DAV and IVAC are about and how to get into a facility for a Resource fair.

March 2023, Zoom meeting with Virginia Cares and Veterans on the meeting as well as Chaplains and other businesses that assist Veterans that are Incarcerated. March 2023, Zoom meeting with Virginia Cares and Veterans on the meeting as well as Chaplains and other businesses that help Veterans such as Ministries, Community businesses, Failsafe, Virginia Cares, VADOC Representatives.

- *DSC Director, Projects and Programs / Commissioner Bob Bent.*

During the year, in his role as DSC Commissioner, worked diligently with the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center. He maintained access and contact via cell phone and e-mail with Washington DC. VA Medical Center. His primary activities and duties are to advise the DSC on the validity of projects and programs of the DSC. A more detailed report will be conversed at the Conference.



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10. Conclusion from DSC Chairman John King

There is much work to be done. We have Veterans exiting out of local hospitals and cycling through jails with no place to go. We have Veterans with significant barriers to employment. Veterans who struggle to get to and from work because public transportation is limited. Despite these challenges and more, we continue to do the work and break down silos, advance policy, develop partnerships, leverage, grow and share new resources, and use our dollars for maximum potential. Thanks to the work of these committees that they have done keeps the DAV in line with its mission statement. Great job to all Committee members!!

Although LVAP is not a part of any committee many questions concerning these committee are filtered through her via email or telephone communication. As the DSC Secretary, she is the keeper and accountability of badges and letters that are to be given to volunteers. NOTE: There will be no badges sent out at this convention due to the designer going on vacation. However, they may be available for National Convention. The Department of Virginia was once again successful in being selected as winners of the LVAP Award. Kudos to ALL!!!

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for the work that you all have done. I would also like to personally thank everyone else who provided support, feedback, and encouragement along the way. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve on this Commission, and it has been my pleasure to serve you all and our fellow veterans on this committee. Consider this my resignation as Chairman, Department Service Commission (DSC) effective at the conclusion of this Spring Conference.

Fair to all.



John W. King
Chairman, DSC
Past Department Commander
DAV Department of Virginia



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March 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: Rita Aberegg, Audit Chairman
Subject: Report of the Audit Committee

This report is for the period October 17th, 2022 through March 15th, 2023

The Audit Committee did not meet at the Fall Conference to review the vouchers for 2022 year. The members present were Rita Aberegg (07), Cecil Edwards (60), Vincent Remsen (02), John Simmons (22) and Cynthia Bailey (20). Stephen Perkins, a member of the Finance Committee, has reviewed the vouchers at Department Headquarters since the Fall Conference and all discrepancies have been corrected.

John Simmons and Cynthia Bailey have been reviewing the Thrift Store Disbursements on a quarterly basis and will provide any input to the chapters at the Spring Conference. The Department Commander and Adjutant reviewed some of the Chapters AFR's and noticed there are some common threads of which lines the expenses are going to that may not be accurate.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aberegg



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March 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: Rita Aberegg, Audit Chairman
Subject: Report of the Department Audit

This report is for the period 01 July 2021 through 30 June 2022

The Audit Committee met on 28 October 2022 at Department Headquarter to prepare the Annual Financial Report (AFR). The follow committee members were present: Rita Aberegg (7), Chairman; Stephen Perkins (29) Liaison to the Finance Committee, Cecil Edwards (60), James Remson (2), Jim Simmons (22), and Cynthia Bailey (20).

The committee was provided the AFR with Supporting Documentation and the Financial Statements. Rich Garbe then walked the committee trough the line items and we ensured the numbers were correct. We reviewed the bank statements provided for the General Fund from Atlantic Union Bank; for the Department Service Commission from Atlantic Union Bank, for the Thrift Stores from BB&T Bank and Farmers Market, and for the Money Market from Morgan Stanley and Atlantic Union Bank. I verified the Accounts from QuickBooks were supported. All accounts were traced to the Budget Line Numbers, Chart of Accounts and the AFR.

All check numbers were documented and annotated.

The committee reviewed all 302 vouchers for the year; these vouchers were checked for errors and any discrepancies were provided to the Treasurer. He examined the comments and made the necessary corrections to the satisfaction of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee was tasked with reviewing all Chapter AFR's beginning in 2017. We have provided a form to be used for those chapters receiving funds from the Department Thrift Stores, from Lounge activity, and from Rental of property for cellular tower to ensure distribution of said funds go toward Service To Veterans. The Committee has reviewed the AFR's from the chapters receiving funds from the Department Thrift Stores and it appears funds are being spent toward Service To Veterans. We will begin looking at the chapters with Lounge and Rental Property beginning in the Spring.

I would like to thank the Audit Committee for their diligence and attention to detail in completing the Department of Virginia Annual Financial Report and look forward to the new fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aberegg



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March 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Department Spring Conference-2023
FROM: James Smith Jr., Awards Committee Chair
Subject: Report of the Awards Committee

This report is for the period June 20, 2022 through May 6, 2023

The committee completed the fall 2022 award season. The awards committee is working with the current awards guide to help clarify the guidelines and deadlines.

At the Spring conference, the committee will be open to accept the following award submissions until May 1st. .

The following Awards can be nominated for to be presented at Department Convention:

Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year (Al Bartraw Jr. Award)
Lifetime Achievement Award (Charlie Craft Award)
Homeless Veteran Award (Reggie Ruffin Award)
Outstanding Local Veterans Representative Award
Outstanding Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Award
Outstanding Employer of the Year
Outstanding VAVS Volunteer of the Year

The Committee will be presenting a seminar on March 17, 2023, at 2 p.m. We look forward to seeing Chapters submit members and others that deserve to be recognized.

Respectfully submitted,

James Smith Jr.

Chair, Dept. Awards Committee



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March 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Department Spring Conference
FROM: Shawn B. Ware, Chair
Subject: Report of the Employment Committee

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 6, 2023.

The Employment Committee remains steadfast in assisting veterans and their families with employment information, resources and opportunities.

During this quarter, we continued building our relationships with the Chapters, Department, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) and employers around the Commonwealth to collectively and effectively provide assistance.

We continued to update our LVER directory, a resource of information and a tool for continuity.

We began working on our employment-related legislative proposals which will be submitted for review and consideration prior to Annual Convention.

We continued working to strengthen the foundation, content and effectiveness of the employment program. This is a collective effort, and we need your support to accomplish our goals of helping veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn B. Ware



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March 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Spring Conference 2023
FROM: David Cuff, Chairman, Finance Committee
Subject: Report of the Finance Committee

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 6, 2023

The Finance Committee will be meeting, at this conference, to discuss a date for the preparation of a draft budget for the 2023-2024 accounting year. All budget lines will be evaluated, and adjustments made as appropriate. The committee will meet prior to the convention to finalize the draft budget and budget guidelines for presentation at the 4th DEC.

Treasurer Cox advised the committee, per the budget guidelines, the finance committee will meet with the investment manager for the annual review at the State Convention. Currently, the stock market is very volatile which requires patience since our funds are long-term investments.

I hope the conference will be productive, a good learning experience and enjoyable for all my comrades.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cuff



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March 9, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Shamala B. Capizzi/Benefits Protection Team Chair

Subject: Report of the Benefits Protection Team Leader/Legislative Committee

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 15, 2023.

In January, created and email BPTL newsletter to department BPTL committee. Contacted and invited each Virginia congressional representative's office to the Department of Virginia Commander's coffee on Monday, February 27, 2023. Over twenty DAV members attended the coffee including two congressional representatives from Congressman Gerry Connolly's office and a representative from the local NAACP leader.

Respectfully submitted,

Shamala B. Capizzi



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March 9, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Comrade Irby Cotton II / Membership Committee

Subject: Report of the Membership Committee

This report is for the period August 15, 2022 – March 9, 2023

Established National and Department goals - Spoke with and exchanged correspondence with Department Commander Francis Mitchell

Membership Roles and Responsibilities -To ensure all Chapter Membership Chairs were aware of their roles and responsibilities for 2022-2023, the Department Membership Committee hosted two (2) sessions. September 3, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Completed September 8, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Department Fall Conference - Delivered Membership Presentation, set up a Membership informational table to answer Chapters' questions, distributed brochures, literature and interviewed DAV members about the Conference.

Golden Corral – National Commander Visit - Event Posted on Twitter. Recruited potential members / explained claims information / emergency relief / homelessness / job fairs etc.....

Chapters Visited and /or Assisted with Membership

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ▪ Chapter 2 | ▪ Chapter 21 | ▪ Chapter 28 |
| ▪ Chapter 5 | ▪ Chapter 22 | ▪ Chapter 33 |
| ▪ Chapter 6 | ▪ Chapter 30 | ▪ Chapter 34 |
| ▪ Chapter 7 | ▪ Chapter 26 | ▪ Chapter 50 |
| ▪ Chapter 15 | ▪ Chapter 27 | |

Membership Initiatives

- **Chapter Visits/Zoom**
 - o September 3, 2022
 - o September 8, 2022
 - o October 27, 2022
 - o November 17, 2022
 - o December 3, 2022 – Chapter 34
 - o February 4, 2023 – Chapters 30 and 33

- o February 7, 2023 – Chapter 27
- o February 23, 2023
- **Events** - Twitter and Facebook Posts
 - o November 14, 2023 - Golden Corral
 - o February 28 – March 1, 2023, Mid-Winter Conference
 - o March 3, 2023 - March Madness Kick-Off – Guy Fieri
- **Electronic Business Cards**
 - o Virginia Chapters
 - o 6th District Chapters
 - o Other DAV Chapters
 - o Potential New Members
- **6th District Photo** at the 2023 Mid-Winter Conference – Included with report

Membership Committee Meetings

- September 3, 2022
- September 8, 2022
- October 27, 2022
- November 17, 2022
- January 26, 2023
- February 28, 2023
- March 23, 2023 (upcoming)

Goal: To achieve a successful March Madness (Pre and Post)

Plan: To achieve the 2022--2023 goal, the team will seek to complete the following:

1. Establish Communications with Commanders, Adjutant, Sr. Vice or Membership Chair, and Membership Committee Member in each Chapter
2. What town, city, or county is your Chapter Located
3. Total number of members in Chapter
4. Total number of Veterans in the Chapter's jurisdiction
5. Has your Chapter received a Hot List?
6. Do you have the most up-to-date membership list
7. Do you have the most up-to-date zip code list
8. DAV Membership Eligibility
9. Chapter Membership goals and achievements
10. Chapters Mentoring other Chapters
11. March Madness
12. Chapters with locations to meet and where
13. DAV New Member Orientation Guide
14. Constitution and Bylaws – Responsible for Membership

15. Identify Members in Chapter with Recruiter Experience
16. Stress the importance of 2023 Critical Policy Goals to Membership/current and potential new members
17. Make Potential New members of Job fairs yearly conducted by DAV
18. We have 9 chapters who have reached 100% or higher and all but 1 at 95% or better

Irby Cotton II

2023 Mid-Winter Conference 6th District



Maryland, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia



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March 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Kassandra O. Benson, Chairperson, Dept Emergency Relief Committee

Subject: Report of the Emergency Relief Committee

This report is for the period June 20th, 2022 through March 6th, 2023

Department ER Funds Expended 20 June 2022 to Feb 2023: \$12,100.88

- Funds assisted 25 veterans and their families
- Needs included Hotel Stays for Homeless, Rent Assists, and Utilities
- Special shout-out to Chapters 3, 34, and 50 in their emergent assistance to close gaps that Tidewater chapters could not.

Assistance by Chapters (as reported) for this period:

DAV Chapter 6:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$6,399.04
Total Veterans Assisted: 18 Veterans; 16 Dependents

DAV Chapter 7:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$2,300
Total Veterans Assisted: 6

DAV Chapter 20:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$7, 236.00
Emergency Relief Assistance: \$6191.04

Total Veterans Assisted: 28 (Includes 8 Homeless vets)
Total Rental and Utilities Assistance: 20

DAV Chapter 50:

Total Amount Dispersed: Not reported.

Total Veterans Assisted: 3 (1 was Homeless)

NOTE: All other Virginia chapters not reported will be contacted and offered the chance to provide their numbers for historical purposes. Any assistance after 6 March 2023 can be included in an ADDEMDUM Report after conference completion.

Training:

- Requests for proper ER application investigation increased thereby producing more timely & vetted assistance.
- Held two (2) Zoom Meetings with DAV Chapter Commanders and CSOs to sound the alarm about the rise of requests due to the ending of COVID relief programs in May 2023.
- Draft Policy Doc is in work to clarify/standardize the ER Application Process across the chapters
- In discussion about a database or other platform to better track the veterans the chapters assist to avoid chapter hopping" and misusing DAV assistance.

Community Partnerships:

- Sounded the alarm to the Hampton VAMC & partner VSOs/community partners that DAV is not an open ATM. Our financial assists are for short-term resolution
- Pushed for training to understand the HUD-VASH program and its impact on DAV's parameters for assistance as a non-profit
- Attended a Continuum of Care Meeting at the United Way in February 2023 to provide proper perspective on DAV's role in financial assistance to local veterans

Shout out to my committee members who continued to fill the gap in vetting packages with transparency.

Respectfully submitted,

"KASS"

KASSANDRA O. BENSON



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March 6th, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2022 Fall Conference
FROM: Lisa Gregory, Chair Department Homeless Committee
Subject: Report of the Department Homeless Committee

This report is for the period October 19th, 2022 through March 6th, 2023

Greetings,

During this period the Committee continues to utilize local, state and federal resources to assist with temporary housing for Homeless Veterans and working to get them connected to the proper resources to meet their needs. This information may sound repetitive to many, but it is important since some needs of Homeless Veterans can be outside the scope or monetary amounts DAV Chapters can offer.

We ask that Chapters try to connect Veterans with 211 or the Homeless Veteran Hotline at 1-877-4AID VET. Many of the pandemic services are starting to go away and we are seeing an increase at a level that is beyond our scope and what the Veteran may be able to maintain and sustain on their own.

Chapters that have assisted outside the Department scope have been Chapter 6 (\$3,300), Chapter 7 (\$493), Chapter 20 (\$1045), Chapter 13 (\$7403) and Chapter 21 (\$3030), Chapter 28 (\$700) and Chapters 26 and 50 both helped a total of 6 Veterans. Total reported by these Chapters alone was roughly \$17,000 in assistance to 55 Veterans. I know others have assisted and we would like to show what our Chapters are doing for Veterans out there. The Department assisted 19 Veterans with over \$8,700.

If we can utilize the services out there, such as the VA Homeless Transition Team, Local Shelters, Virginia Veteran and Family Support, The United Way, The Red Cross and many others, we can provide what is needed to help get Homeless Veterans into permanent and safe housing.

Thank you for all you do everyday!

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Gregory, Chair Homeless Committee



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February 28, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 2023 Spring Conference
FROM: M.Tyrelle Felder, Chair
Subject: Report of the Women Veterans Committee (WVC)

This report is for the period October 17, 2022 through March 15, 2023

Successes:

1. Publishing our quarterly newsletter in November and February via collaboration with Social Media Cmte and Line Officers
2. Hosted 2 quarterly WVC Zoom meetings with increased attendees and participation

Challenges:

1. Wider dissemination of the newsletter
2. Obtaining marketing items for the committee

Plans:

1. DAV-DVS WVC Wellness Retreat: TBD
2. WVC Day at DAV Conferences/Conventions: PENDING
3. WVC Lapel Pins: PENDING (being re-worked)
4. WVC Ink Pens: TBD

Recommendations:

1. Constant Contact accounts for all Committee Chairs
2. Quarterly if not monthly DSC meetings for better communication, expectations
3. Survey Monkey account for Dept Committee Chairs

Respectfully submitted,

M.Tyrelle Felder



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March 10,2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: March 2023
FROM: Jeff Ogilvie
Subject: Report of Incarcerated Veterans Committee (IVAC)

This report is for the period 2023.

The IVAC have been in contact with the Chairman via email.

We have hade Meeting through Zoom every other month.

November 2022, Met with Deputy Curtis at the Stafford County Worship Watch (Rappahannock Jail), spoke to chaplain and other Veterans to see how DAV can get into and help Veterans locked up in a facility.

December 2022, Correction Town Hall Virtual meeting. Veterans, Chaplains, and Sherriff's as well as Program Managers.

February 2023, Met with Marshall Williams and 2 Interns with Virginia Cares to discuss what DAV and IVAC are about and how to get into a facility for a Resource fair.

March 2023, zoom meeting with Virginia Cares and Veterans on the meeting as well as Chaplains and other businesses that help Veterans.

Ministries, Community businesses, Failsafe, Virginia Cares, VADOC Representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ogilvie



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

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March 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Comrade Stewart / Social Media Committee

Subject: Report of the Social Media Committee

This report is for the period October 13, 2022 – March 5, 2023

Department Fall Conference - Delivered Social Media Presentation, set up a Social Media informational table to answer Chapters' questions, and interviewed DAV members about the Conference.

Golden Corral – National Commander Visit - Event posted on Twitter

Chapters Visited and /or Assisted with Social Media

- Chapter 2
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- Chapter 7
- Chapter 15
- Chapter 21
- Chapter 22
- Chapter 30
- Chapter 26
- Chapter 27
- Chapter 28
- Chapter 33
- Chapter 34
- Chapter 50

Social Media Initiatives

- **Chapter Visits**
 - December 3, 2023 – Chapter 34
 - February 4, 2023 – Chapters 30 and 33
 - February 7, 2023 – Chapter 27
- **Events** - Twitter and Facebook Posts
 - November 14, 2023 - Golden Corral
 - February 28 – March 1, 2023, Mid-Winter Conference
 - March 3, 2023 - NSO visit - Chapter 21
 - March 3, 2023 - March Madness Kick-Off – Guy Fieri
 - March 4, 2023 - Grand Re-Opening – Chapter 26
- **Electronic Business Cards**
 - Virginia Chapters
 - 6th District Chapters
 - Other DAV Chapters
- **6th District Photo** at the 2023 Mid-Winter Conference – Included with report

Social Media Committee Meetings

- January 31, 2023
- February 28, 2023

Social Media Analytics

Twitter

March 5, 2023 - Report

28 day summary with change over previous period

Tweets
39 ↑875.0%

Tweet impressions
2,178 ↑206.3%

Profile visits
1,109 ↑588.8%

Mentions
15 ↑650.0%

Followers
955 ↑3

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Tweets					31	11
Tweet Impressions	649	699	788	873	1,569	811
Profile Visits					854	373
Mentions					13	4
New Followers	0	-3	-5	-2	1	1

Facebook

March 5, 2023 - Report

Facebook Analytics for 01 Oct 22 - 04 Mar 23						
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Facebook Posts	0	0	19	33	38	14
Facebook Page Reach	53	54	117	350	443	194
Facebook Page Visits	147	144	193	130	213	86
Facebook Page New Likes	2	11	3	4	5	1
Facebook Followers	1331	1331	1331	1331	1331	1331

Comrade Marcia Stewart

**2023 Mid-Winter Conference
6th District**



Maryland, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia

**2023 Mid-Winter Conference
6th District**



Maryland, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia



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March 2, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Robert D. Cox, Pdc, Adjutant/CEO
 FROM: James Procnier, PDC, Webmaster
 SUBJECT: Website Report Oct 1, 2022 to March 02, 2023 Spring Conference – 2023

Total website visits since inception 2016: 62,750 (increase this period of 6,435)

Chat line/Webmaster email:
 178 requests for information/service.

20 Most visited pages this period:

Homepage	2,915	Conference/Convention:	1,367
Claims Assistance:	756	Legislative Programs:	624
Thrift Stores:	467	Department Forms:	461
Department Administration:	419	Department Officers:	400
Events Calendar:	308	DSO/CSO:	195
Training Materials:	193	Employment:	143
VA Medical Centers:	130	Emergency Relief Committee	127
Homeless Veterans Committee:	114	Auxiliary Home Page:	105
Committee Home Page:	93	Auxiliary Officers:	83
Membership Committee:	78		

Our website continues to perform better than most public services websites in the United States in key statistical areas per the analytics gleaned from Wix:

<u>Traffic</u>	<u>Our Stats</u>	<u>Better than</u>
Unique visitors	914	84%
Average Session	5min 44 sec	86%
Bounce rate	61%	30%
Returning visitors	22%	76%
Organic search	61%	66%
Social networks	1%	50%

Bounce rate is a single-page session on our site. Our site referral from our social media outlets, and those of others, is low for this time period, and has been falling for several months. Traffic source for finding our website continues to be dominated by Google, Bing, Yahoo, direct login, DuckDuckGo, and Facebook. 50% of logins occur with mobile devices, 48% with desktops, 2% with tablets.

Respectfully,

James A. Procnier, PDC